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Dear members,

Having just returned from my 2012 fieldwork season, I find myself collecting my thoughts and thinking over the past year.

Several successful events took place here in Ankara as well as in London. The mini-symposium organised by the Institute in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute and the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations was very well received. This took place at the museum in early April and marked the launch of *Inscriptions of Roman Ancyra 1* by David French and Stephen Mitchell. Another highlight was the workshop entitled On the Cusp: States that Straddle Neighbouring Regions: an Inter-Area Comparative Study of 'Cusp States', held in collaboration with Oxford University and the Middle East Technical University (Ankara). This took place in March and was largely organised by the Institute's Assistant Director Marc Herzog. The workshop was made possible by an award from the incentivisation programme of the British Academy. In collaboration with the British School at Athens, Marc applied for and was granted three years of funding from another British Academy programme (strategic development) for the Balkan Futures project. Working also with the École française d'Athènes, Balkan Futures is an international network which supports original research by a new generation of scholars in the field of Balkan regional studies. Since his arrival in September 2011, Marc has invested much energy in increasing the dialogue between the foreign institutes in Ankara. One of the results of this superb effort is the birth of FIT (Foreign Institutes in Turkey), a platform for joint activities. The opening event was co-organised by the Institute and the Dutch Institute for Higher Education in Ankara.

Unlike the news on our contemporary Turkey activities, that on the archaeological activities of the Institute is not all positive, unfortunately. New rules from the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism have made life difficult for archaeologists wishing to work in Turkey. For various reasons, three British excavations did not take place this summer, namely Amorium, Kerkenes and Domuztepe. This year has seen the last year of fieldwork in the current phase of research at Kilise Tepe and also of the Pisidia Survey Project. As you will read in this edition of *Heritage Turkey*, these and several other archaeological projects completed very successful campaigns in 2012.

Big news on the archaeological front is certainly that Çatalhöyük has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. All of us at the Institute would like to offer warm congratulations to Ian Hodder and his team for this achievement. Sadly, Çatalhöyük's first excavator, Jimmy Mellaart, passed away this summer. It was a sad day for the Institute and a great loss for the wider archaeological community. We hope that the UNESCO recognition of Çatalhöyük will have given him great satisfaction and joy.

As for life at the Institute itself, the premises have been buzzing with activity all year. In addition to the presence of our Fellow, Magda Craciun, and Research Scholar, Ben Irvine, Riley Snyder has joined us to work on the digitisation of the archives and Abby Robinson has been with us to manage the online publications programme. Since September, the number of long-term stayers in Ankara has increased further, and we have been joined by our two Fellows for 2012/2013. Emma Baysal is exploring the role of boundaries in the exchange of ideas in Anatolia from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age and Leonidas Karakatsanis' project is entitled 'Turkish-Greek friendship reiterated: genealogies of rapprochement at the Aegean borders'. Furthermore, the Balkan Futures Fellow, Özge Dilaver Kalkan, is dividing her time between Athens and Ankara.

Last, but not least, in January, the Headley Trust/Hedef Alliance Fellow, Işıl Gürsu, will join us to start work on the Institute's cultural heritage management project. Indeed, the Institute has greatly increased its engagement with cultural heritage management issues this past year. This has become an area of focus in Turkey, and the Institute wishes to contribute, drawing on the extensive expertise in the UK.

This letter has shown already that a lot has happened in the past 12 months, and I hope you will enjoy reading more about these activities in the following pages!

Best wishes from Ankara,

